

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for driving a prime mover, said process comprising

a) positioning a selective membrane between a liquid and a solution having a higher osmotic potential than the liquid, such that the solution becomes pressurised by the influx of liquid across the membrane,

b) transferring the pressure generated in the solution to another liquid via a pressure exchange system to drive a prime mover,

c) recovering the solution,

d) separating at least some of the solvent from the solution to form a residual product, and

e) recycling at least one of the separated solvent and/or the residual product of step d) to step a).

2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prime mover is a rotary prime mover.

3. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solution is an aqueous solution.

4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solution is solution of a salt selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, potassium nitrate, magnesium sulfate, magnesium chloride, sodium sulfate, calcium

chloride, sodium carbonate, disodium hydrogenphosphate and potassium alum.

5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 3 ~~wherein~~
, comprising forming the aqueous solution is formed by dissolving
ammonia and carbon dioxide in water.

6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 5, which is an
aqueous solution of ammonia, carbon dioxide, ammonium carbonate,
ammonium bicarbonate and ammonium carbamates.

7. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the solution has a solute concentration of 1 to 400 weight %.

8. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the liquid is selected from the group consisting of freshwater,
seawater, brackish water and a waste stream from an industrial or
agricultural process.

9. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the liquid is or comprises the same solvent as the solvent of the
solution.

10. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1,
~~wherein comprising removing the solvent is removed in step d)~~ by a
thermal and/or membrane separation method.

11. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11,
~~wherein the solvent is remove~~ removed using a method selected from
evaporation, distillation and crystallization.

12. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 11, ~~wherein comprising removing the solvent is removed by~~ at least one method selected from multi-stage flash distillation, multi-effect distillation, mechanical vapour compression and rapid spray desalination.

13. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the solvent is removed by at least one method selected from ion-exchange, electrodialysis nanofiltration and osmosis.

14. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the energy required to remove solvent in step d) is provided by ~~the~~ wind power, thermal energy of ~~the~~ surrounding environment, solar energy, geothermal energy, energy from a biological process, energy from ~~the~~ combustion of fuel and/or excess heat from power plants and other industrial processes.

15. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein including recycling at least some of the solvent recovered in step d) is recycled to a liquid for step a).~~

16. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, which comprises using the pressure generated in the solution to transfer the solution to an elevated location, and using the potential energy of the elevated solution to drive the prime mover.

17. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein including the step of transferring the solution from step a) is transferred to an elevated height where the ambient temperature is~~

(i) low enough to crystallize at least some of the solute in the solution, or

(ii) below the freezing point of the solvent to crystallize the solvent, such that the solution is separated into a portion having a low solute concentration and a portion having a high solute concentration.

18. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 18, ~~wherein including the step of returning each of said portions is returned to~~ ground level, such that the potential energy of each of the portions can be used to drive the prime mover.

19. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the thermal energy required to separate the solvent from the solution is step d) is provided by the compression and decompression of~~ gas.

20. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selective membrane of step a) has an average pore size of 1 to 60 Angstroms, ~~preferably 12 to 50 Angstroms.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein comprising positioning the pressurised solution from step (a) is positioned on one side of a further selective membrane, and placing a~~ further solution having a higher osmotic potential than the pressurised solution ~~is placed on the other another side of the membrane, such that the further solution become pressurized by the influx of liquid across the~~ membrane.